

Drawing Amendments:

Please replace the original drawings with those enclosed herewith, each sheet labeled "Replacement Sheet" as requested in the Office Action.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-32 are pending herein. Non-elected claims 33-42 have been canceled herein without prejudice of disclaimer.

1. The drawings were objected to for informalities. Applicants submit that the replacement sheets enclosed herewith attend to the issues raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.
2. The abstract was objected to under MPEP §608.01(b). Applicants have amended the abstract to attend to this minor issue.
3. Claims 1-20 and 23-30 were rejected under §102(b) over Okada et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to clarify structural aspects of the present invention, namely recitation of a superconducting article that includes a plurality of superconductor strips overlying a substrate and extending along a longitudinal direction, wherein first and second superconductor strips extend parallel to each other and are spaced apart from each other by a gap extending perpendicular to the longitudinal direction. The foregoing language is supported by the originally filed application, particularly including the drawings, notably FIG. 7. As illustrated, first and second superconductive strips 14a and 14b are spaced apart from each other by a gap g (See FIG. 4) that extends generally perpendicular to the direction of extension (i.e., longitudinal direction) of the strips. Further, claim 1 is clarified to recite that the first and second superconductor strips are electrically coupled together by at least one conductive bridge spanning the gap between the adjacent first and second superconductor strips.

In contrast, the structure of Okada et al. is mainly directed to coupling of superconductor tapes through a particular joint geometry, wherein individual superconductor strips are connected to each other longitudinally. Okada et al. nowhere disclose or even remotely suggest a structure in which adjacent strips are interconnected laterally.

Since Okada et al. clearly fail to disclose all features of the invention as presently claimed, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

4. Claims 21 and 22 were rejection under §103 over Okada et al. in further view of Malozemoff et al. Malozemoff et al. fail to address the deficiencies of Okada et al. described above. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested as well.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

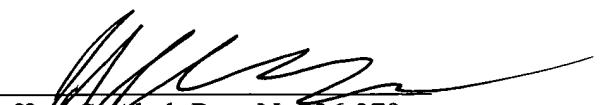
Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the Applicants would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Applicants does not believe that any additional fees are due, but if the Commissioner believes additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

7/3/05


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